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January 15, 2002

Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse:

I believe that the proposed settlement in the Microsoft antitrust case is a fair and reasonable compromise, and I want to express my hope that it will be approved by the federal court.

North Carolina's Attorney General, Roy Cooper, carefully reviewed the settlement and concluded that it is fair and effective, as have attorneys general from a number of states and the U.S. Department of Justice.

The agreement contains significant restrictions on how Microsoft will be able to develop, license and market its software. But, most important, the settlement would permit Microsoft to return its focus to the development of even more outstanding products. These products have played a vital role in the productivity gains that have driven our nation's economic growth, and their development should not be unduly restricted.

America needs an economic boost today, and there could be no better boost than a settlement of this lawsuit as soon as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

SMITH HELMS MULLISS & MOORE, L.L.P.

Peter Hans

PH/gn

ATLANTA

CHARLOTTE

GREENSBORO

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